

So I would say, quite frankly, to my colleagues who decry the North American Free Trade Agreement, the NAFTA agreement, I would say, you are wrong, it has worked, it has done precisely as we wanted.

And I will yield, and we only have just about 5 more minutes, and we are going to close up, and I will yield to you, and then I will end.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Let me just mention that one of the big issues in the NAFTA negotiations was the failure of Mexico to enforce their own labor laws. They look good on paper, but they did not enforce them, and we have learned something from those NAFTA negotiations.

In those negotiations we made what is called a side agreement, and as a result of that, Mexican investment in enforcement of their own labor laws has increased 250 percent. In other words, we forced them to try to start enforcing their own laws, which were good on paper and lousy in reality, and in this new fast track authority we specifically include the right for the United States to negotiate the enforcement of domestic laws in labor and environment because lots of countries have good-sounding laws, but they do not enforce them, and that does make it harder for us to compete. So we have now expanded this negotiating authority to include enforcement of domestic laws because we did learn from those negotiations in Mexico the need for that breadth.

So this time we are not only asking for the President to have negotiating authority, but we are asking for that authority to reflect the experience that we have in what defends America's interest and what strengthens our own future and creates opportunity for our people.

Mr. KOLBE. I think the gentlelady's comments are right on target, and I think they summarize exactly why America needs to have fast track authority, why the President of the United States needs fast track authority, why we need to be able to pursue opportunities.

Opportunities for trade means opportunities for jobs for Americans. It means opportunities for American consumers. It means opportunities for our children and opportunities for the future. None of us in this body should be afraid of the future. The American people are not afraid of the future.

And this issue about fast track is not a partisan issue. It is an issue about whether we are going to lead, lead for ourselves and lead with the rest of the world.

And Republicans and Democrats alike have spoken out strongly on the issue of free trade, and I would like to simply end tonight with some quotations that I think very well express the importance of why we need to have these kinds of trade agreements.

The current Secretary of the Treasury, Bob Rubin, said this: We are now at a crossroads. The question before

Congress is whether to grant the President fast track so that we can continue to open markets, expand trade and raise standards of living here at home, or to refuse and watch as U.S. workers and businesses lose out in access to the opportunities in the global economy.

Brent Scowcroft was a White House national security adviser in President Reagan and President Bush's administration, and he said this: We cannot say we will lead on NATO and regional security, but not on trade. We cannot say we will lead on democracy and human rights, but not on trade. And we cannot say we will lead on the environment, but not on trade.

Senator Dole, Robert Dole, the former majority leader and Republican Presidential nominee this last campaign, said, global trade is inevitable and Presidential fast track authority is indispensable if America is to lead the community of nations into the next century.

And finally, the President of the United States, President Clinton, has said this: We owe it to the working men and women of America and around our entire country to level the playing field for trade so that when our workers are given a fair chance, they can and they do outcompete anyone anywhere in the world.

My colleagues, I appreciate my colleague from Connecticut participating with us this evening. I think it is very clear where the merits of this argument lie. We are confident about America's future, and I think we are confident that fast track authority will lead us into a brighter future for our children.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MENENDEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for Tuesday, November 4, on account of election day in his home State of New Jersey.

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), after 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 5, and on Thursday, November 6, on account of business in the district.

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for Thursday, November 6, on account of official business in the district.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for Thursday, November 6, after 5:30 p.m., and Friday, November 7, after 11 a.m., on account of personal reasons.

Mr. MICA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for Thursday, November 6, until 6:30 p.m., on account of accompanying the President to the Bush Library dedication.

Mr. PORTMAN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for Thursday, November 6, until 6:30, on account of attending the dedication of the George Bush Presidential Library.

Mr. QUINN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, after 3:30, until 6

p.m., November 8, on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. GILLMOR (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), from today, 5 p.m., and for Saturday and Sunday, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. FORBES (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for Thursday, November 6, until 6:30 p.m., on account of attending the dedication of the George Bush Presidential Library.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCNULTY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POSHARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TRAFICANT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LAFALCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FURSE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KUCINICH, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GIBBONS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SAXTON, for 5 minutes, each day, today and November 9.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEKAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GIBBONS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PORTMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KASICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAPPAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANFORD, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. HANSEN, and to include therein extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$3,334.00.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found

truly enrolled a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2367. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans.

H.J. Res. 101. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2367. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans.

H.J. Res. 101. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Saturday, November 8, 1997, at 12 noon.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
Washington, DC, October 31, 1997.

Re notice of adoption of amendments under section 204 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 304 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (the "Act"), 2 U.S.C. §1384, I am transmitting on behalf of the Board of Directors the enclosed notice of adoption of amendments to regulations under section 204 of the Act, together with a copy of the adopted amendments, for publication in the Congressional Record.

Section 304 specifies that the enclosed notice and amendments be published on the first day on which both the House of Representatives and the Senate are in session following this transmittal, and that the notice and amendments be referred to the appropriate committee or committees of the House and Senate for consideration of whether the amendments should be approved.

Sincerely,

GLEN D. NAGER,
Chair of the Board.

Enclosure.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE—THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995: EXTENSION OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYEE POLYGRAPH PROTECTION ACT OF 1988

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS AND SUBMISSION FOR APPROVAL

Summary: The Board of Directors ("Board") of the Office of Compliance has adopted amendments to the Board's regulations implementing section 204 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("CAA"), 2 U.S.C. §1314, and is hereby submitting the amendments to the House of Representatives and the Senate for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and for approval. The CAA applies the rights and protections of eleven labor and employment and public access laws to covered employees and employing offices within the Legislative Branch, and section 204 applies rights and protections of the Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988 ("EPPA"). Section 204 will go into effect with respect to the General Accounting Office ("GAO") and the Library of Congress ("Library") on December 30, 1997, and these amendments extend the coverage of the Board's regulations under section 204 to include GAO and the Library. The amendments also make minor corrections to the regulations.

The Board has also adopted amendments to bring GAO and the Library within the coverage of the Board's regulations under sections 205 and 215 of the CAA, which apply the rights and protections, respectively, of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. To enable the House and Senate to consider and act on the amendments under sections 204, 205, and 215 separately, if the House and Senate so choose, the Board adopted the amendments under these three sections by three separate documents and is submitting the Notices for the amendments under sections 205 and 215 together with this Notice to the House and Senate for publication and approval.

For further information contact: Executive Director, Office of Compliance, John Adams Building, Room LA 200, Washington, D.C. 20540-1999. Telephone: (202) 724-9250 (voice), (202) 426-1912 (TTY).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. Background and Purpose of this Rulemaking

The background and purpose of this rulemaking were described in detail in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published by the Board on September 9, 1997, at 143 CONG. REC. S9014 (daily ed. Sept. 9, 1997) ("NPRM"), and will be summarized here briefly. The CAA, enacted on January 23, 1995, applies the rights and protections of eleven labor and employment and public access laws to covered employees and employing offices in the Legislative Branch. Section 204 of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. §1314, applies the rights and protections of the Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988 ("EPPA") by providing, generally, that no employing office may require a covered employee to take a lie detector test where such a test would be prohibited if required by an employer under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 3 of the EPPA, 29 U.S.C. §2002(1), (2), (3).

For most employing offices and covered employees, section 204 became effective on January 23, 1996, and the Board published interim regulations on January 22, 1997 and final regulations on April 23, 1996 to implement section 204 for those offices and employees. 142 CONG. REC. S260-62, S262-70 (daily ed. Jan. 22, 1996) (Notices of Adoption of Regulation and Submission for Approval and Issuance of Interim Regulations); 142 CONG. REC. S3917-24, S3924 (daily ed. Apr. 23, 1996) (Notices of Issuance of Final Regula-

tions). However, with respect to GAO and the Library, section 204 will become effective on December 30, 1997, and the purpose of this rulemaking is to adopt regulations to implement section 204 with respect to GAO and the Library as well.

2. Description of Amendments

In the NPRM, the Board proposed that coverage of the existing regulations under section 204 be extended so that the same regulatory provisions would apply to GAO and the Library and their employees as now apply to other employing offices and covered employees. No comments were received, and the Board has adopted the amendments as proposed.

In the Board's regulations under section 204, the scope of coverage is established by the definitions of "employing office" in section 1.2(i) and "covered employee" in section 1.2(c), and the amendments add GAO and the Library and their employees into these definitions. In addition, as proposed in the NPRM, the amendments make minor corrections to the regulations.¹

Recommended method of approval. The Board adopted three identical versions of the amendments, one amending the regulations that apply to the Senate and employees of the Senate, one amending the regulations that apply to the House of Representatives and employees of the House, and one amending the regulations that apply to other covered employees and employing offices, and the Board recommends, as it did in the NPRM: (1) that the version amending the regulations that apply to the Senate and employees of the Senate be approved by the Senate by resolution, (2) that the version amending the regulations that apply to the House and employees of the House be approved by the House by resolution, and (3) that the version amending the regulations that apply to other covered employees and employing offices be approved by the Congress by concurrent resolution.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on this 31st day of October, 1997.

GLEN D. NAGER,
*Chair of the Board,
Office of Compliance.*

The regulations implementing section 204 of the CAA, issued by publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on April 23, 1996 at 142 CONG. REC. S3917-24 (daily ed. Apr. 23, 1996), are amended by revising section 1.2(c) and the first sentence of section 1.2(i) to read as follows:

"Sec. 1.2 Definitions

"(c) The term *covered employee* means any employee of (1) the House of Representatives; (2) the Senate; (3) the Capitol Guide Service; (4) the Congressional Budget Office; (5) the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; (6) the Office of the Attending Physician; (7) the Office of Compliance; (8) the General Accounting Office; or (9) the Library of Congress.

"(i) The term *employing office* means (1) the personal office of a Member of the House of Representatives or of a Senator; (2) a committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate or a joint committee; (3) any other office headed by a person with the final authority to appoint, hire, discharge, and set the terms, conditions, or privileges of the employment of an employee of the House of Representatives or the Senate; (4) the Capitol Guide Board, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of the Attending Physician,

¹In the definitions of "employing office" and "covered employee," the references to the Office of Technology Assessment and to employees of that Office are removed, as that Office no longer exists.